GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:423
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
AGREEMENT WITH WTO FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the recent agreement with the World Trade Organisation to start financial services;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations from various trade organisations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

a) & b) There is no specific agreement on Financial Services at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) aside from the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) which came into force on 1.1.1995 and the Annexe to GATS on Financial Services adopted pursuant to a decision of the Committee on Trade in Financial Services on 14.11.1997. Mandated services negotiations under GATS have been underway at the WTO since 1.1.2000 on all service sectors, including Financial Services.These negotiations, which cover all service sectors and all modes of supply, are scheduled to conclude on 1.1.2005. While India is an active participant in these negotiations, with requests having been made and received for market access in various sectors, a final decision on the extent to which commitments would be offered by India in each sector will depend on the assessment of the gains from commitments offered by trading partners.

c) & d) In view of the above, does not arise.